

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 27 are cancelled.

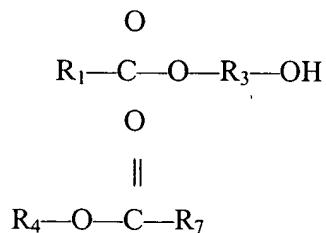
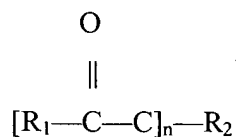
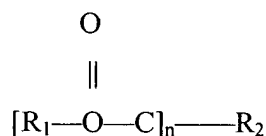
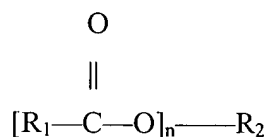
28. (Currently Amended) A gel composition, comprising:

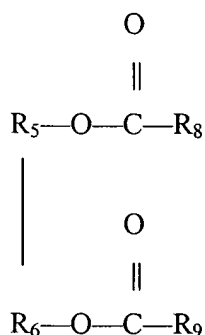
an ester compound; and

a polymer compound having at least one rigid block selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,

wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils;

wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:





wherein n=1, 2, 3, and 4, and

R₁ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R₂ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R₃ includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R₄, R₅, and R₆ individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R₇, R₈ and R₉ individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.

29. (Currently Amended) The gel composition of claim 28, further comprising a diblock copolymer;

~~wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils.~~

30. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, wherein the ester is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, C₁₂-C₁₅ alkyl benzoate, octyl methoxycinnamate, octyl dodecyl neopentanoate, propylene glycol dicaprylate/caprate, jojoba oil, and isostearyl neopentanoate.

31. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, wherein the polymer compound is present in the amount of about 1% to about 40 % by weight.

32. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 29, wherein the diblock copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-ethylene/propylene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butadiene copolymers, styrene-isoprene copolymers, and styrene-butadiene copolymers.

33. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, wherein the triblock copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene copolymers, styrene-ethylene/butadiene-styrene copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene copolymers, and styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymers.
34. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 29, wherein the diblock copolymer is hydrogenated.
35. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, wherein the triblock copolymer is hydrogenated.
36. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, wherein the triblock copolymer includes a grafted functional group.
37. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, further comprising a suspended component.
38. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 37, further comprising a diblock copolymer.
39. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 37, wherein the suspended component is a solid selected from the group consisting of organic materials, inorganic materials, organometallic materials, phosphorescent materials, and fluorescent materials.
40. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 37, wherein the suspended component is a solid selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, coated zinc oxide, surface-treated zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, surface-treated titanium dioxide, graphite, explosives, air-sensitive chemicals, moisture-sensitive chemicals, boron nitride, iron oxides, talc, mica, plastics, polymers, silica, silicon dioxide, aluminum oxide, metal particles, antibacterials, antibiotics, anesthetics, glass, clays, gums, capsules containing an active ingredient, starch, modified starch, other encapsulated materials, and combinations thereof.
41. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 37, wherein the suspended component is a liquid selected from the group consisting of water, water containing a water-soluble material, glycerin, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, alcohols, acids,

surfactants, emulsifiers, polyglycerols, ethers, polar esters, fluorinated compounds, perfluoropolyethers, silicones, silicon-containing compounds, and combinations thereof.

42. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 28, further comprising an active ingredient.

43. (Previously Presented) The gel composition of claim 42, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of sunscreens, antiperspirants, deodorants, perfumes, cosmetics, emollients, insect repellants, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, plasticizers, insecticides, and medicaments.

Claims 44 - 47 are canceled.

48. (Previously Presented) A method of making a gel composition, comprising:

mixing an ester compound with a polymer compound having at least one rigid block selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,

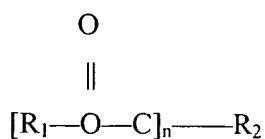
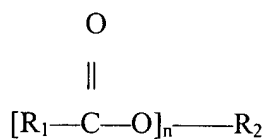
heating the mixture;

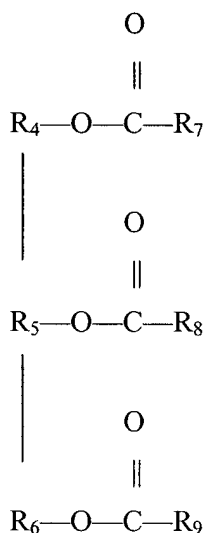
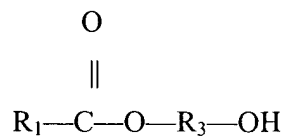
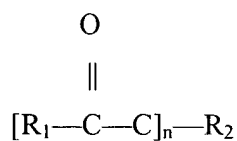
agitating the mixture until the mixture becomes homogeneous; and

cooling the mixture;

wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils;

wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:





wherein $n=1, 2, 3$, and 4 , and

R_1 includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R_2 includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R_3 includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R_7 , R_8 and R_9 individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.

Claims 49 and 50 are canceled.